





1977 CENSUS OF CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRIES

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Industry Series

Preliminary Report

Special Trade Contractors, N.E.C. SIC 1799

During 1977, the establishments with payroll in this industry had business receipts of \$4.6 billion. Of this amount, \$4.4 billion were receipts for construction work, an increase of 82 percent compared with 1972. Their payments for construction work subcontracted to others amounted to \$282.4 million leaving net construction receipts of about \$4.2 billion. Total average employment in the industry showed an increase of 27 percent from 1972 to 128.3 thousand employees. Payroll for 1977 amounted to \$1.4 billion. Value added at \$2.7 billion in 1977 was 74 percent more than in 1972.

The Special Trade Contractors, N.E.C. industry includes establishments primarily engaged in construction work not elsewhere classified. This industry includes construction work such as core or diamond drilling, scaffolding construction, house moving, fireproofing and waterproofing of buildings and other structures, sandblasting and steam cleaning of building exteriors, and establishments engaged in numerous other activities. For a more detailed description, see the 1972 SIC Manual.¹

For this census, a "construction establishment" was defined as a relatively permanent office or other place of business at which or from which the usual business activities related to construction were conducted. A separate census report was required from each establishment but not from each construction site. Instead, the data for work at each site were included in the report from the appropriate office or branch office. Foreign construction activities were not included in this census.

The 1977 Census of Construction Industries is the sixth census of construction establishments in the United States. As in previous years, it was conducted jointly with the censuses of mineral industries, manufactures, retail trade, wholesale trade, and service industries under authority of title 13 of the United States Code. Although the first construction census was conducted covering 1929, only the data from the censuses of 1967 and 1972 are comparable with the 1977 data.

The 1977 estimates for establishments with payroll in all of

the construction industries are based on reports from a probability sample of approximately 181,000 establishments selected from about 536,000 construction establishments with payroll. The sample included all construction establishments with a payroll equivalent of 15 or more full-time employees and a sample of those with fewer employees. There were two exceptions: In SIC 1521, sampling was employed in establishments with less than 20 employees because of the large number of establishments in that industry; in SIC 1795, all known establishments were included because of the very small number of establishments in that industry. The data obtained from the sample were inflated to represent all construction establishments with payroll. Complete descriptions of the sampling and estimating procedures will be included in the final reports.

Since the data in this report are based on a sample, they are subject to sampling variability and may be expected to differ from results which would have been obtained if a complete census had been taken using the same schedules and procedures. The standard error shown in the tables is a measure of sampling variability, i.e., the variation that might occur by chance because only a sample of the population was surveyed. As calculated for this report, the standard error partially incorporates the effect of random errors of response, but it does not take into account the effect of any consistent biases due to those types of errors. The chances are about 68 out of 100 that an estimate from the sample would differ from a complete census by less than the standard error. The chances are about 95 out of 100 that the difference is less than twice the standard error.

This report does not include figures for separate administrative offices, warehouses, garages, or other auxiliary units which service construction establishments of the same company.

¹Standard Industrial Classification Manual: 1972. For sale by Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. Stock No. 4101-0066. Price \$6.75. 1977 Supplement. Stock No. 003-005-00176-0. Price 90 cents.



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Table 1. Detailed Statistics for Establishments With Payroll: 1977, 1972, and 1967

(Thousands of dollars. Detailed figures may not add to totals because of rounding. For meaning of abbreviations and symbols, see text)

Item	Special trade contractors, not elsewhere classified (1799)			Standard error of estimate (percent)		
	1977	1972	1967	1977	1972	1967
Number of establishments.....	20,567	15,420	10,254	2	2	4
Proprietors and working partners.....	11,170	9,253	6,195	3	3	5
All employees:						
March.....	112,819	88,118	59,064	1	2	2
May.....	136,685	103,497	66,586	1	2	1
August.....	139,355	110,600	69,623	1	2	1
November.....	123,595	96,109	63,512	1	2	2
Average.....	128,284	101,294	65,481	1	2	1
Construction workers:						
March.....	93,395	70,748	49,351	2	2	2
May.....	114,885	85,060	56,472	2	2	2
August.....	118,014	91,680	59,450	2	2	2
November.....	103,035	77,909	53,492	2	2	2
Average.....	107,497	82,899	55,447	1	2	1
Other employees:						
March.....	19,425	17,370	9,718	2	2	3
May.....	21,800	18,437	10,333	2	2	3
August.....	21,342	18,920	10,191	2	2	3
November.....	20,560	18,200	10,090	2	2	3
Average.....	20,815	18,418	10,336	2	2	2
Payroll, all employees.....	1,377,816	826,328	408,232	1	1	1
Payroll, construction workers.....	1,079,827	635,758	329,102	1	2	1
Payroll, other employees.....	297,989	190,570	79,189	1	2	2
First quarter payroll, all employees.....	282,203	(NA)	(NA)	1	(NA)	(NA)
Employer costs for fringe benefits.....	260,841	(NA)	(NA)	1	(NA)	(NA)
Legally required expenditures.....	161,914	(NA)	(NA)	1	(NA)	(NA)
Voluntary expenditures.....	98,927	(NA)	(NA)	1	(NA)	(NA)
All business receipts.....	4,620,733	2,540,138	1,265,703	1	2	1
Total construction receipts.....	4,435,616	2,440,265	1,233,133	1	2	1
Receipts for work subcontracted from others.....	1,583,499	849,910	464,991	1	2	2
Other business and land receipts.....	185,117	99,873	33,014	3	2	3
Net construction receipts.....	4,153,227	2,264,658	1,159,420	1	2	1
Value added.....	2,691,888	1,549,359	785,887	1	2	1
Selected payments.....	1,928,845	990,779	481,050	1	2	2
Materials, components, and supplies.....	1,538,793	1,815,172	1,406,290	1	2	2
Construction work subcontracted to others.....	282,389	175,607	73,358	2	4	5
Selected power, fuels, and lubricants.....	107,663	(NA)	(NA)	2	(NA)	(NA)
Electricity.....	13,304	(NA)	(NA)	2	(NA)	(NA)
Natural gas.....	6,147	(NA)	(NA)	4	(NA)	(NA)
Gasoline and diesel fuel.....	77,528	(NA)	(NA)	2	(NA)	(NA)
Lubricating oils and greases.....	7,797	(NA)	(NA)	2	(NA)	(NA)
Other.....	2,891	(NA)	(NA)	4	(NA)	(NA)
Rental payments for machinery, equipment, and structures.....	66,120	(NA)	(NA)	2	(NA)	(NA)
For machinery and equipment.....	45,522	23,975	9,757	2	4	5
For structures.....	20,599	(NA)	(NA)	2	(NA)	(NA)
Selected purchased services.....	104,541	(NA)	(NA)	2	(NA)	(NA)
Communication.....	36,388	(NA)	(NA)	2	(NA)	(NA)
Repairs to structures and related facilities.....	5,406	(NA)	(NA)	3	(NA)	(NA)
Repairs to machinery and equipment.....	62,748	(NA)	(NA)	2	(NA)	(NA)
Capital expenditures.....	119,722	64,356	28,068	2	4	4
New.....	93,946	51,052	22,300	2	4	5
Structures and related facilities.....	9,849	6,772	2,898	6	13	8
Machinery and equipment, including automobiles and trucks.....	84,097	44,280	19,402	2	4	5
Automobiles and trucks intended primarily for highway use.....	46,892	(NA)	(NA)	3	(NA)	(NA)
Used.....	25,776	13,304	5,768	4	7	9
Structures and related facilities.....	2,865	6,753	2,021	8	13	13
Machinery and equipment, including automobiles and trucks.....	22,911	6,551	3,747	4	7	11
Fixed assets and depreciation:						
Gross book value of depreciable assets at end of year.....	807,863	376,889	(NA)	2	3	(NA)
Accumulated depreciation at end of year.....	393,815	168,266	(NA)	1	3	(NA)
Net value of depreciable assets at end of year.....	414,048	208,623	(NA)	2	3	(NA)
Depreciation charges during year.....	93,323	45,945	(NA)	2	3	(NA)
Structures, additions, and related facilities:						
Gross book value of depreciable assets at end of year.....	148,991	83,146	(NA)	2	4	(NA)
Accumulated depreciation at end of year.....	52,486	22,165	(NA)	2	6	(NA)
Net value of depreciable assets at end of year.....	96,505	60,981	(NA)	3	5	(NA)
Depreciation charges during year.....	8,113	6,656	(NA)	3	9	(NA)
Machinery and equipment:						
Gross book value of depreciable assets at end of year.....	658,872	293,743	(NA)	2	3	(NA)
Accumulated depreciation at end of year.....	341,329	146,101	(NA)	2	3	(NA)
Net value of depreciable assets at end of year.....	317,543	147,642	(NA)	2	3	(NA)
Depreciation charges during year.....	85,210	39,289	(NA)	2	3	(NA)

¹ Includes data for power, fuels, and lubricants, now shown separately.

Table 2. Construction Receipts for Establishments With Payroll by Type of Construction: 1977 and 1972

(Thousands of dollars. Detailed figures may not add to totals because of rounding. For meaning of abbreviations and symbols, see text)

Item	Special trade contractors, not elsewhere classified (1799)		Standard error of estimate (percent)	
	1977	1972	1977	1972
Construction receipts.....	4,435,616	2,440,265	1	2
Building construction.....	1,753,033	1,231,237	1	2
Single-family houses.....	461,621	321,182	4	5
Apartment buildings.....	105,448	120,292	4	4
Other residential buildings.....	47,046	35,597	4	5
Industrial buildings and warehouses.....	442,671	191,613	2	3
Office and bank buildings.....	148,920	157,172	2	3
Stores, restaurants, public garages, and automobile service stations.....	232,499	168,515	3	4
Religious buildings.....	29,442	22,886	3	4
Educational buildings.....	102,421	100,200	2	4
Hospitals and institutional buildings.....	89,402	65,847	3	3
Amusement, social, and recreational buildings.....	46,296	37,034	5	7
Other nonresidential buildings.....	47,268	10,899	8	5
Nonbuilding construction.....	1,699,529	929,235	2	3
Highways, streets, and related facilities.....	91,223	59,440	4	3
Outdoor swimming pools.....	727,013	453,010	2	4
Fencing.....	377,424	249,989	3	5
Bridges.....	31,606	(NA)	5	(NA)
Pipe line, other than sewer or water lines.....	32,815	(NA)	4	(NA)
Blast furnaces, petroleum refineries, and chemical complexes.....	157,518	58,416	1	4
Power plants.....	68,115	20,795	5	2
Sewage treatment and water treatment plants.....	40,991	(NA)	3	(NA)
Other nonbuilding construction.....	172,824	87,585	3	8
Construction work not specified by kind.....	983,045	279,793	2	4

Note: See text for explanation of duplication.

Data for separate central administrative offices and auxiliaries are collected in the enterprise statistics survey, a part of the economic censuses.

This report is one in a series presenting preliminary data collected in the 1977 Census of Construction Industries. The universe for this census included all establishments classified in the construction industries (SIC's 15, 16, 17, and 6552). This report will be superseded by a more detailed final report. In addition to data for establishments with payroll presented here, the final Industry Summary report and the reports in the Geographic Area Series will present limited data for construction establishments with no payroll during 1977.

The totals of construction receipts reported by all construction establishments in each of the several industry, State, or other groupings in this census contain varying amounts of duplication, since the construction work (and the receipts) of one firm may be subcontracted out to other construction firms and, therefore, will be included in the subcontractor's receipts. To avoid this duplication, a "net construction receipts" figure has been derived by subtracting the payments made for construction work subcontracted to others from the construction receipts.

Usually, "value added" is the best measure for comparing the relative economic importance of industries or areas. It elimi-

nates the duplication in receipts because of subcontracting. It also eliminates from the output measure the cost of materials, which differs in relative importance among areas and industries. For this census, "value added" is equal to all business receipts less payments for construction work subcontracted to others and payments for materials, components, supplies, and fuels. However, for industries for which land receipts are significant, "value added" is equal to all business receipts less land receipts, payments for construction work subcontracted to others, and payments for materials, components, supplies, and fuels.

The symbols in the tables mean:

- Represents zero.
- D Withheld to avoid disclosing figures for individual companies; figures are included in higher level totals.
- S Withheld because estimates did not meet publication standards on the basis of either the associated standard error or a consistency review.
- Z Standard error of estimate is greater than zero but less than 1 percent.
- a Sampling error is greater than 40 percent.
- NA Not available; data were not collected.

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